

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2008. In view of the following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, a telephone conference was held with the Examiner on May 20, 2008. The courteous and helpful manner in which the Examiner conducted the telephone interview is sincerely appreciated. As will be discussed below, it appears that confusion between the branch channel and the central air channel 13 (recited in claim 16) may have resulted in the objections/rejections based on new matter.

By the above amendment, claims 18, 19, 22 and 23 are cancelled; and claims 25-26 are newly presented. Note, the subject matter of new claims 25-26 is clearly supported at least in Fig. 1 and page 8, lines 20-25 of the specification as originally filed. Thus, claims 16, 17, 20, 21 and 24-26 are currently pending in the present application.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings, the specification and rejects the claims based on the Examiner's contention that the references to an "air inlet", an "air outlet" and a "fluid channel" constitute new matter; and therefore do not comply with the written description requirement set forth in the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In the telephone conference with the Examiner, it appears that the branch channel 28 may have been confused with the central air channel 13 of the pressure indication unit 10. There is no question that the pressure indication unit 10 includes the central channel 13 (fluid channel) which extends between an air inlet and air outlet. Note that the branch channel 28 communicates with the central air channel but does not form a part thereof.

To satisfy the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe the claimed invention in sufficient detail so that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. See, e.g., Moba, B.V. v. Diamond Automation, Inc., 325 F.3d 1306, 1319, 66 USPQ2d 1429, 1438 (Fed. Cir. 2003). It is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have no trouble determining that the pressure indication unit 10 includes an air passage extending between an air inlet and an air outlet. This could easily be determined simply by viewing Fig. 1 of the present application. Further, the description on page 8, lines 8-19 of the specification as originally filed, clearly states that the pressure indication unit 10 has a compressed air intake (inlet) 11 formed at the lower end thereof, and a coupling portion (outlet) 12 formed at the upper end for coupling to the spray gun body 1. Also disclosed is that the air channel 13 extends to coupling portion 12, which is inserted into coupling hole 8 formed in the spray gun body 1 so that compressed air is directed from the compressed air intake 11 to the air valve 5 in gun body 1.

In view of the above, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection to the drawings; the objection to the specification; the rejections of claim 16, 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and the rejection of claims 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner determine that it is necessary to provide technical antecedent basis in the specification for the inlet and outlet of the passage 13, then Applicant will be happy to further amend the specification to indicate that the intake 11 and the coupling portion 12 form an air inlet and an air outlet, respectively.

Next, on pages 5-8 of the Office Action, claims 16-24 are rejected over the prior art. In particular, claims 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Schmon (DE 10031857). Also, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Schmon reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

In the explanation of the rejection, the Examiner takes the position that the Schmon reference includes "a pressure indication unit (27) that is detachably connected to the spray gun body so as to form at least part of the spray gun grip." However, independent claim 16 specifies that the "pressure indication unit" is detachably connected to the spray gun body, and that the "pressure indication unit" includes an air inlet, an air outlet and a fluid channel extending therebetween. The claim also specifies that the air outlet is coupled to a coupling hole of the spray gun body. As previously discussed, in Schmon the pressure indication unit is integral with the spray gun body. Accordingly, there is nothing in the Schmon reference that corresponds to the claimed "detachable" pressure indication unit which includes an air channel extending between an air inlet and an air outlet. Accordingly, the Schmon spray gun cannot anticipate claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Further, the only detachable features of the Schmon spray gun grip are the cover plate 48 and components of the pressure-sensing and pressure display device 45. Note that the portion of the spray gun grip of Schmon that includes a fluid channel (having an inlet and an outlet) is not detachable from the grip or the spray gun body. Accordingly, the Schmon reference cannot anticipate claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

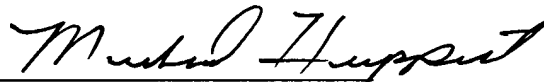
Finally, new claims 25-26 are directed to the arrangement shown in Fig. 1 in which a portion of the grip is integrally formed with the spray gun body. This integral portion forms a mounting bracket for detachably securing the pressure indication unit 10. Examiner McGraw indicated that this feature did not appear to be disclosed in the prior art of record.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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